



## Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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Marc Miller, Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 15, 2011

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## **School Groups, Youth Groups Invited to Apply For Illinois Youth Conservation Congress**

*2<sup>nd</sup> annual event planned for May 15 at Brookfield Zoo*

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) will host the second annual Youth Conservation Congress on Sunday, May 15 at Brookfield Zoo in Brookfield. The IDNR is inviting school and youth group members to apply online to participate in the session.

“The Youth Conservation Congress is a great opportunity for high school age youth in Illinois to come together to share ideas and to learn about ways to become better stewards of the natural wonders of our state,” said IDNR Director Marc Miller.

Applicants for the Youth Conservation Congress should be enrolled in an Illinois high school during the current 2010-2011 school year and should be participants in conservation-related school and/or youth groups. A maximum of two group leaders and five students may register from each school or organization.

Students and leaders will have the opportunity to showcase their achievements, as well as learn about many youth-related conservation activities. Leaders will be encouraged to join the Youth Conservation Congress Committee. Input provided by discussion groups will aid the IDNR in reaching more youth organizations and will result in better coordination among these groups statewide.

School group and youth group members interested in applying may do so through the IDNR website at this link: <http://www.dnr.state.il.us/nrab/ycc.htm>. A 500-word paper outlining the group’s conservation achievements is required to apply. Applicants will be notified of acceptance by April 1.

For more information on the Youth Conservation Congress, contact the IDNR Division of Education at (217) 524-4126 or [dnr.teachkids@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.teachkids@illinois.gov).